

joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report unless a cost estimate under section 402(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653(1)) for the exact text of the bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report has been available for not fewer than 24 hours.

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2—COMMENDING THE BRAVERY, COURAGE, AND RESOLVE OF THE WOMEN AND MEN OF IRAN DEMONSTRATING IN MORE THAN 133 CITIES AND RISKING THEIR SAFETY TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE IRANIAN REGIME'S HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COONS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KANE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 2

Whereas, on September 16, 2022, 22-year-old Mahsa Amini passed away in the custody of Iranian “morality police” following a 3-day coma due to wounds, including bone fracture, hemorrhage, and cerebral edema consistent with severe beating, inflicted by the police for purportedly wearing a hijab improperly;

Whereas, on September 16, 2022, Iranians gathered in the streets of Tehran to protest the killing of Mahsa Amini;

Whereas demonstrations have since spread to more than 133 cities and 130 universities in Iran, where women are removing or burning hijabs, cutting their hair, and dancing in front of Iranian security forces, joined by their fellow Iranian citizens, in a call to end the Iranian regime's systemic repression;

Whereas Iranian security forces have responded to such demonstrations with violence and detentions, including detentions of journalists and activists for covering the protests;

Whereas the security forces reportedly have killed more than 516 protestors, including at least 70 children, although the number of injuries and deaths is likely higher, but is unobtainable due to internet blackouts;

Whereas at least 19,200 Iranians have been arrested across Iran according to official sources, and many thousands more have been detained according to independent reports;

Whereas more than 60 percent of Iran's population is younger than 30 years old, and the protests continue to be fueled by young people;

Whereas Iran's Revolutionary Courts have executed at least 4 individuals who were in-

involved in the protests, namely Mohsen Shekari, Majid Reza Rahnavard, Mohammad Mehdi Karami, and Sayed Mohammad Hosseini, and have charged at least 100 more individuals with crimes that are punishable in Iran by death;

Whereas videos, images, and demonstrations have spread to social media platforms and are an important way for the voices of the Iranian people to be heard;

Whereas internet monitoring groups have reported that the Iranian regime has—

(1) caused near-total disruption of internet connectivity in parts of Iran and partial disruptions in city centers; and

(2) blocked WhatsApp, Twitter, Telegram, Facebook, Instagram, and video games with chat functions;

Whereas common protest chants include—

(1) “Women, life, and freedom!”;

(2) “Iranians die but will not be suppressed!”; and

(3) “Death to the dictator Ayatollah Ali Khamenei!”;

Whereas the Iranian regime has a long history of structural and legal discrimination against women, including barriers for women seeking justice against domestic violence and criminal prohibitions against women singing or showing hair in public and studying certain technical subjects;

Whereas the Iranian regime approved of “depriving one social right or more” for any woman who posts an unveiled picture of herself on social media, and, in August 2022, approved of enforcing mandatory hijab laws through facial recognition;

Whereas, through misogynistic criminal statutes, the Iranian regime for decades has detained and engaged in the ongoing persecution of women, including—

(1) Saba Kord Afshari, who was sentenced to 15 years in prison for posting videos to social media without a hijab and transferred into Ward 6 of the notorious Qarchak Women's Prison, which the Secretary of the Treasury has identified as a place at which gross violations of human rights take place;

(2) Raheleh Ahmadi, mother of Afshari, who was sentenced to 2 years in prison for advocacy on behalf of Afshari;

(3) Yasaman Aryani, her mother Monireh Arabshahi, and Mojgan Keshavarz, who were sentenced to between 16 and 23 years in prison for posting a video for International Women's Day in 2019, during which they walked without headscarves through a metro train in Tehran, handing flowers to female passengers;

(4) human rights attorney Nasrin Sotoudeh, who was sentenced in 2019 to 38 years in prison and 148 lashes for providing legal defense services to women charged with not wearing a hijab;

(5) Narges Mohammadi, a prominent rights advocate, who—

(A) was sentenced to 10 years in prison in May 2015 for “establishing an illegal group”, “assembly and collusion to act against national security”, and “propaganda against the state”;

(B) was arrested in November 2019 (on the second anniversary of countrywide protests) and rearrested in 2021; and

(C) had her prison sentence extended in October 2022 to 11 years and 9 months;

(6) former Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, Shahindokht Molaverdi, who was charged with encouraging “corruption, prostitution, and sexual deviance”, a common charge against women refusing mandatory hijab laws, and sentenced in December 2020 to 30 months in prison for defending the right of women to attend sporting events and criticizing the practice of child marriage;

(7) 6 women who were sentenced by the Culture and Media Court of Tehran in July 2022 to each serve 1 year in prison for the offense of singing songs in public;

(8) Niloufar Hamed, who was one of the first Iranian journalists to report on Mahsa Amini's death, who was arrested on September 22, 2022, and is being held in solitary confinement; and

(9) countless other women;

Whereas the Iranian regime consistently commits a range of human rights abuses in addition to its systematic persecution of women and peaceful protesters, including—

(1) unlawful or arbitrary killings and torture;

(2) trials without due process;

(3) forced disappearances;

(4) arbitrary arrest and detention;

(5) life-threatening prison conditions;

(6) transnational attacks against dissidents; and

(7) severe restrictions on free expression and the media, peaceful assembly and association, and religious freedom;

Whereas Freedom House ranks the Government of Iran as one of the worst human rights violators in the world, with a Global Freedom Score of 14 out of 100 and an Internet Freedom Score of 16 out of 100;

Whereas peaceful protests in Iran during 2022 have focused on grievances such as—

(1) mismanagement of the economy and national resources;

(2) prioritization of funding for terror groups and pariah regimes over social services for the people of Iran; and

(3) widespread political corruption: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) commends the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran who are—

(A) participating in the current protests to defend their fundamental human rights; and

(B) risking their safety to speak out against the human rights abuses committed by the Iranian regime;

(2) condemns—

(A) the brutal beating and death of Mahsa Amini; and

(B) the violent suppression by the Iranian regime of women and men participating in the current demonstrations, including children, and calls for transparent accountability for all killings of protesters by Iranian security forces;

(3) supports internet freedom programs that circumvent the regime, including the Open Technology Fund, which provides support for VPNs, proxy servers, and other alternatives that can be used to bypass attempts by authoritarian governments to censor internet access during times of protest, and commends private entities willing to provide programs to circumvent such censorship;

(4) encourages continued efforts by the Biden Administration to respond to the protests, including the recent sanctioning of the Iranian morality police, and further encourages the Biden Administration—

(A) to immediately impose, under existing authorities, additional human rights sanctions on officials and entities responsible for the repression of the current protests;

(B) to prioritize efforts to expand unrestricted internet access in Iran, consistent with existing law; and

(C) to work to develop a strategy to prevent the Iranian regime from obtaining and exploiting facial recognition data and software for the use of mass surveillance and enforcement of mandatory hijab;

(5) encourages the private sector, following the recent clarification by the Biden Administration of sanctions exemptions on communications technology, to work with the Biden Administration to ensure protestors and activists have access to tools needed to circumvent government surveillance and repression;

(6) encourages representatives of the private sector to coordinate with the Department of the Treasury and their subsidiaries to utilize licensing opportunities and expand access of key communications services to Iranians residing within Iran;

(7) welcomes the efforts of the international community to support protestors in Iran, including by removing Iran from the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women; and

(8) calls on the international community—
(A) to publicly condemn violence by the Iranian regime against peaceful protesters;

(B) to speak out against violations by the regime of fundamental human rights, including the freedom of expression, assembly, and redress of grievances of the Iranian people; and

(C) impose human rights sanctions on officials and entities that are responsible for the repression of current protests and involved in violating the human rights of the Iranian people.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the privileges of the floor be granted to the following members of my staff: David Rosner, our detailee from FERC; and Sarah Stevenson, our American Association for the Advancement of Science, as of today until the end of Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Daniel Davis, my speechwriter—and invaluable member of our team—be granted floor privileges until January 27, 2023.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

UKRAINE

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, if I might be recognized, nearly 1 year ago, Russia launched an unprovoked, illegal, and brutal war of aggression

against Ukraine. In doing so, Vladimir Putin quite literally sought to wipe a sovereign nation off the map. But as the world witnessed in the months that followed, Mr. Putin had vastly underestimated the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian leadership. Rather than capitulate, Ukrainians have resisted and saved their homeland from full-scale occupation. The courage and ingenuity shown by Ukrainian troops, many of whom were civilians before the war, continues to be nothing short of heroic.

This morning, we learned of yet another act of Russian terror in the form of a barrage of drones and missiles raining down on Kyiv. This left severe casualties. This act of brute intimidation, which has become all too common over the past year, was clearly meant to break the will of the Ukrainian people as they prepare to receive more military aid from the United States and from other allies.

Thankfully, Ukrainian forces successfully shot down the vast majority of those incoming projectiles using advanced air defense technology. This is just one more example of what many of us in this Chamber have asserted for months: If Ukrainians get the tools they need, they can finish the job and defeat Vladimir Putin.

The harsh reality is that these kinds of attacks on Ukraine, leaving a trail of casualties in their wake, have become far too common, and if leaders across the free world had acted sooner, we would be better positioned to save the lives and critical infrastructure now.

The U.S. Congress has led the world in supporting the Ukraine war effort. In fact, we have led the Biden administration—this Senate, on both sides of the aisle. On a bipartisan basis, we have provided security assistance, humanitarian aid, and direct support to Ukraine's government. Although this has amounted to tens of billions of taxpayer dollars, this is actually a bargain investment.

Let's put it in context. According to the Kiel Institute's Ukraine Support Tracker, the total U.S. contribution to Ukraine, through November of last year, amounted to only 0.2 percent of our gross domestic product. The new Congress must continue this bipartisan support for Ukraine, and I look forward to leading the charge as ranking member of the Armed Services Committee.

As the first anniversary of this war approaches, we should reflect on the progress made by Ukraine, and we should carefully consider how to help them decisively win this conflict so that a lasting peace can take root. To do so, we first need to state clearly what our American interests are in Ukraine. That is something the President and his advisers have repeatedly failed to do, choosing instead to make vague references to the rules-based international order, or words to that effect.

The American people are right to demand straight answers. With inflation

rampant, crime on the rise, and an open southern border, it is fair to ask why we should care about what happens in Ukraine.

I offer four reasons.

First, Ukraine matters because the security of Europe is closely tied to our own American security and our own American prosperity. For decades, all of our fellow citizens have benefited from peace and stability in Europe, purchased by the sacrifices of Americans in World War I and World War II. What is at stake today in Ukraine is whether the fruits of those sacrifices will continue to endure.

Allowing Putin to prevail in Ukraine would usher in a new age of chaos and instability and would invite Putin to test our resolve to defend our NATO allies. Make no mistake, Putin will push the envelope as far as we let him. His goal is to remake the old Soviet empire, and, regrettably, the West has misread and underestimated Putin's intentions for years—in 2008, when he invaded Georgia; and then in 2014, with the seizure of Crimea and parts of eastern Ukraine; and, yet again, last year in Ukraine with this full-scale invasion.

His imperial ambitions are now undeniable. If Vladimir Putin is not stopped in Ukraine, the security of the entire European continent will be put at risk.

Second, our support and the support of our allies for Ukraine has made a huge difference and has significantly weakened Russia. Thanks to the U.S. military assistance and the courage of Ukrainian troops, Russia has lost its ability to carry out near-term conventional invasions of NATO members, and we achieved that without having to send a single American soldier into combat.

The Russian losses have been massive. Last week, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, GEN Mark Milley, estimated that significantly more than 100,000 Russian troops have been killed or wounded in Ukraine during the war, not to mention thousands of combat vehicles, tanks, artillery pieces, and aircraft destroyed.

For those questioning the cost of our assistance, I would simply pose the alternative: How much would it cost in American lives and treasure to confront the Russians directly? Because that is the reality we face if Putin tests our resolve to defend NATO. From that perspective, we are getting one heck of a deal by helping Ukraine do its own fighting.

Third, our support for Ukraine is prompting European countries to take more responsibility for their own security, something we have long urged them to do. Republican and Democrat Presidents alike have long believed that Europeans should take the lead on European security. I agree. Almost every American agrees.

Thanks to our example, our NATO allies are now spending tens of billions more on defense, much of which will be